

REMARKS

The Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the office interview of January 7, 2009. The above amendments have been prepared in accordance with the discussion that took place during that interview. As a summary of that interview, the Examiner encouraged the Applicants' representative to clarify the independent claims to reflect that a first search is conducted in a first document database; of the documents retrieved as a result of the first search, at least one document is selected and sent to the server which comprises the first document database; a weighted term list is made from terms contained in the input document or documents, from which the user can select at least one term; the selected term or terms is input as a second search of a second document database, by which the first search is expanded; a second weight is then calculated for each term inputted as the second search; and the relevance of each document retrieved from the second document database as a result of the second search is found or determined by calculating an overall weight on both the weighted term list and the calculated second weights for each document with respect to terms common in both. The results of the finding or determination are then displayed on a display unit.

The Applicants believe that the above amendments to the independent claims flesh out this outline of the embodiments sought to be patented in accordance with the above claims. To this end, and to focus prosecution on the remaining claims, dependent claims 12 and 16 have been canceled.

The Applicants representative requests the Examiner to telephone him at the number below prior to sending the next official action, if these amendments do not place the application in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

To the extent necessary, the Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. NIT-163-02).

Respectfully submitted,

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